

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 CANCELLED

41. (Previously Presented) A gas flow distributor for a lateral airbag module, comprising:
a holder configured to surround outflow openings of a gas generator,
wherein the holder includes an impact element and a gas-guiding duct,
wherein the gas-guiding duct is configured to guide gas flowing between the impact element and the gas generator,

wherein the impact element is configured so that a gas flow emerging from the outflow openings of the gas generator impacts against the impact element and is thereby deflected and divided into a first gas flow and a second gas flow,

wherein the first gas flow is deflected in a first direction along a circumferential surface of the gas flow distributor toward a first gas outlet region and the second gas flow is deflected in a second direction along the circumferential surface of the gas flow distributor toward a second gas outlet region,

wherein the first and second gas flows emerge from the gas outlet regions along a tube axis of the gas generator,

wherein the first and second gas outlet regions are opposite one another,

wherein the gas generator comprises a tubular gas generator and the tube axis of the gas generator and a cross-sectional axis of the impact element are spaced apart from each other,

wherein the first and second gas outlet regions are the sole gas outlet regions.

42. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the gas-guiding duct runs essentially between an outside of the gas generator and an inside of the impact element.

43. (Withdrawn) The gas flow distributor of claim 42, wherein the gas-guiding duct runs essentially between an outside of a region of the holder that surrounds the gas generator and an inside of the impact element.

44. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the impact element has an essentially circular cross section.

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46. (Withdrawn) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the impact element is formed as a single piece with an end portion of the holder.

47. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the gas-guiding duct essentially has one of a circular ring-shaped cross section or ~~and/or~~ a crescent-shaped cross section.

48. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the gas outlet regions of the gas-guiding duct ~~and/or~~ or outlet openings of the holder lead into at least one gas bag.

49. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 48, wherein the gas outlet regions of the gas-guiding duct lead into different chambers of the gas bag ~~and/or~~ or into different gas bags.

50. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein one of the impact element ~~and/or~~ or the holder serve to separate two gas bag chambers.

51. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein at least two gas bags are attached to one of the impact element ~~and/or~~ or the holder and in each case at least one gas-guiding duct ~~and/or~~ or at least one outlet opening leads into one gas bag in each case.

52. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the holder comprises a dimensionally stable material so that the holder is not deformed by the gas flow emerging from the gas generator.

53. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 52, wherein the holder comprises metal or a die casting.

54. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 53, where the holder is configured to hold a tubular gas generator.

55. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 54, wherein the holder includes a holding region for surrounding the tubular gas generator.

56. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 55, wherein the holding region comprises a tubular shape.

57. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 56, wherein a cross section of the holding region comprises a continuous curve.

58. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 57, wherein the continuous curve comprises a circular shape or a polygonal shape.

59. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 56, wherein the holding region comprises an essentially hollow, cylindrical shape.

60. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 55, where the holder is configured to allow gas flowing along a circumferential surface of the holding region in a direction of extent of the tubular gas generator into a gas bag.

61. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the holder includes holder outlet openings through which gas which has flowed into an interior of the

holder can emerge from the gas generator and can flow into a gas bag to thereby inflate the gas bag.

62. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 61, wherein at least one holder outlet opening is provided in a casing of the holding region.

63. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 61, wherein a size of the holder outlet openings can be set.

64. (Withdrawn) The gas flow distributor of claim 61, wherein the holder outlet opening is at least partially closed by a covering which is opened by the gas flow emerging from the gas generator.

65. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 61, wherein at least one holder outlet opening is configured to conduct the gas flow emerging from the gas generator along a circumferential surface of the holding region in a direction of extent of the gas generator.

66. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 55, wherein the holder is configured so that the gas flow emerging from the gas generator is held in the holding region and is at least in part initially reflected against an inner wall of the holding region before the gas flow emerges from the holder.

67. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 55, wherein an inner wall of the holding region is spaced apart from the gas generator at least in a region of the gas generator outflow openings.

68. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the holder is configured to be connected directly to a supporting part of a motor vehicle.

69. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the holder is configured to be connected to a supporting part of a motor vehicle indirectly via a further assembly.

70. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 69, wherein the further assembly comprises a subassembly of an airbag module.

71. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the gas flow distributor is configured to serve as a generator support and includes a connecting region for connecting the generator support to a supporting part of a motor vehicle.

72. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 71, wherein the connecting region includes fastening points for fastening the generator support to a further subassembly.

73. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 72, where the connecting region includes a flange.

74. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 73, wherein the flange protrudes from a holding region of the generator support.

75. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 74, wherein the holding region and the connecting region of the generator support comprise a single-piece design.

76. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 51, wherein a separating gap running between two gas bags runs in a region of one of the impact element ~~and/or~~ or the holder.

77. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 76, wherein the separating gap is configured to be braced in a gastight manner via the impact element.

78. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein a function of the impact element ~~and/or~~ or of the holder is maintained during plastic deformation.

79. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the gas flow distributor is included in a lateral airbag module.

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81. (Previously Presented) A lateral airbag module, comprising:
a gas generator; and
a gas flow distributor including a holder configured to surround outflow openings of the gas generator,

wherein the holder includes an impact element and a gas-guiding duct,
wherein the gas-guiding duct is configured to guide gas flowing between the impact element and the gas generator,

wherein the impact element is configured so that a gas flow emerging from the outflow openings of the gas generator impacts against the impact element and is thereby deflected and divided into a first gas flow and a second gas flow,

wherein the first gas flow is deflected in a first direction along a circumferential surface of the gas flow distributor toward a first gas outlet region and the second gas flow is deflected in a second direction along the circumferential surface of the gas flow distributor toward a second gas outlet region,

wherein the first and second gas flows emerge from the gas outlet regions along a tube axis of the gas generator,

wherein the first and second gas outlet regions are opposite one another,

wherein the gas generator comprises a tubular gas generator and the tube axis of the gas generator and a cross-sectional axis of the impact element are spaced apart from each other,

wherein the first and second gas outlet regions are the sole gas outlet regions.

82. (Previously Presented) The lateral airbag module of claim 81, further comprising a gas bag configured to be inflated by the gas generator, wherein a holding region of the gas flow distributor is arranged within the gas bag.

83. (Currently Amended) The gas flow distributor of claim 48, wherein the outlet openings of the holder lead into different chambers of the gas bag ~~and/or~~ or into different gas bags.

84. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the holder includes a fastening device configured to fasten the impact element and the gas generator to a vehicle,

wherein the fastening device includes a cutout region configured to permit gas from the gas generator to pass through the fastening device and impact the impact element.

85. (Previously Presented) The lateral airbag module of claim 81, wherein the holder includes a fastening device configured to fasten the impact element and the gas generator to a vehicle,

wherein the fastening device includes a cutout region configured to permit gas from the gas generator to pass through the fastening device and impact the impact element.

86. (Previously Presented) The gas flow distributor of claim 41, wherein the impact element is positioned around an outer circumference of the fastening device.